"MANGA FANS WILL LOVE IT. THANK YOU, CPM. YOUR TIMING LOOKS TO BE RIGHT ON TARGET FOR THIS PROJECT."
— MARY ALICE WILSON, DARK STAR BOOKS

M.D. GEIST

GROUND ZERO

PART THREE OF THREE PARTS

Planet Jerra is on the verge of war. Decades ago, colonists from Earth, led by President Nexrum, declared the planet their own and lit the fire of a rebellion against the cities established by the Earth Government. Rushing to prevent escalation, Colonel KURTZ and Lieutenant WONG created the MOST DANGEROUS SOLDIER (MDS) program: genetic research meant to build the ultimate soldier—a soldier capable of taking down Nexrum's army quickly and efficiently.

Intent on expanding the MDS program, Lieutenant Wong and one of her earliest prototypes, GEIST, travel to the secret base of Jerra Special Forces in order to put Geist into action. The JSF commanding officer, Colonel STANTON, wants nothing to do with them...but when Geist brutally maims Stanton's best field sergeant in a sparring match, the Colonel has little choice but to accept him.

Now, Stanton and one of his elite platoons have embarked on a crucial mission deep inside Nexrum territory...intent on capturing a warplane capable of destroying the planet Jerra itself!

based on characters and situations created by
KOICHI OHATA

story by
KOICHI OHATA
TIM ELDRED & JOHN OTT

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GEIST

STANTON

WONG

COVER ART BY KOICHI OHATA
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SPECIAL THANKS TO YOUNG HWAL SON.

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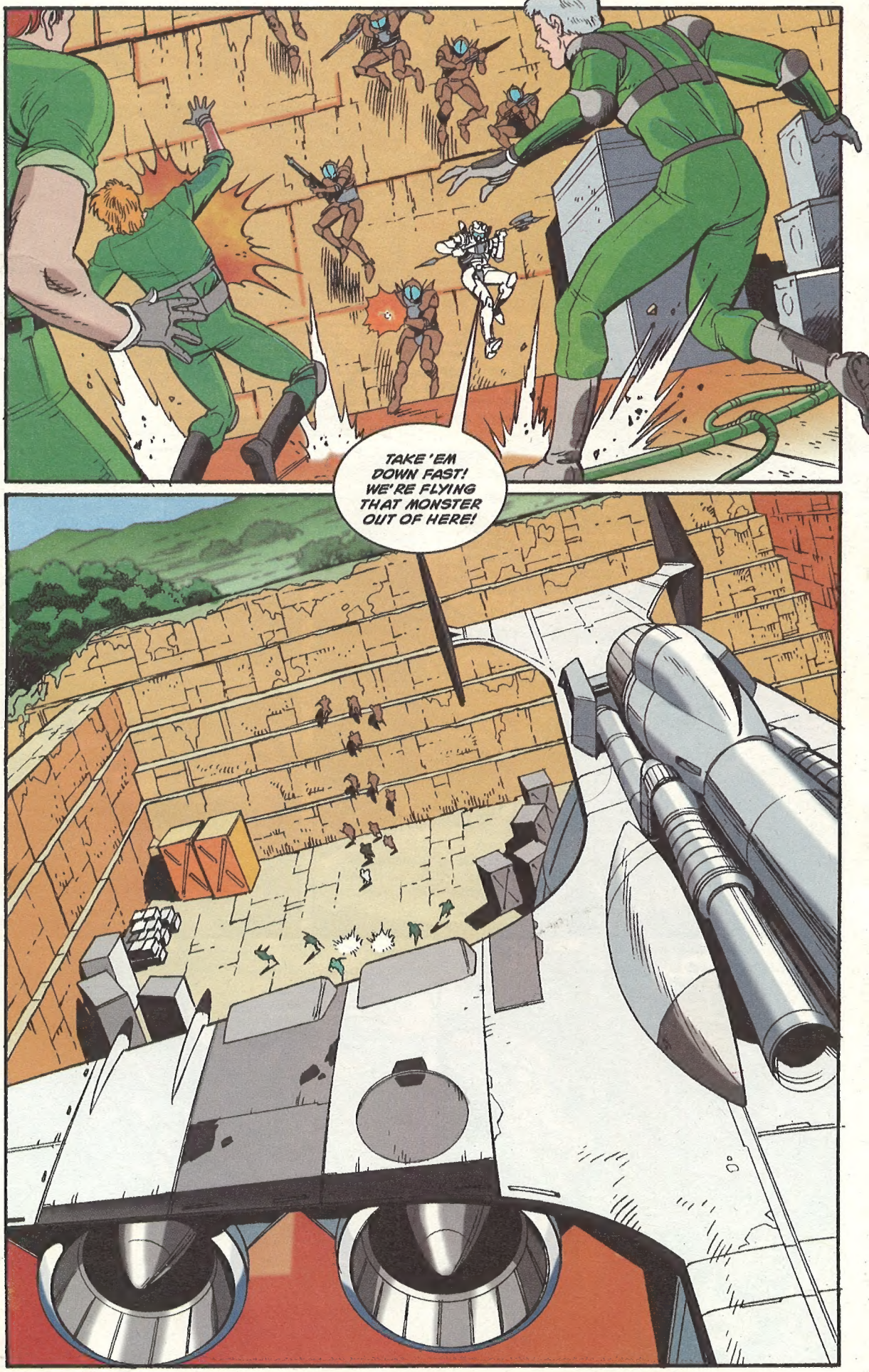
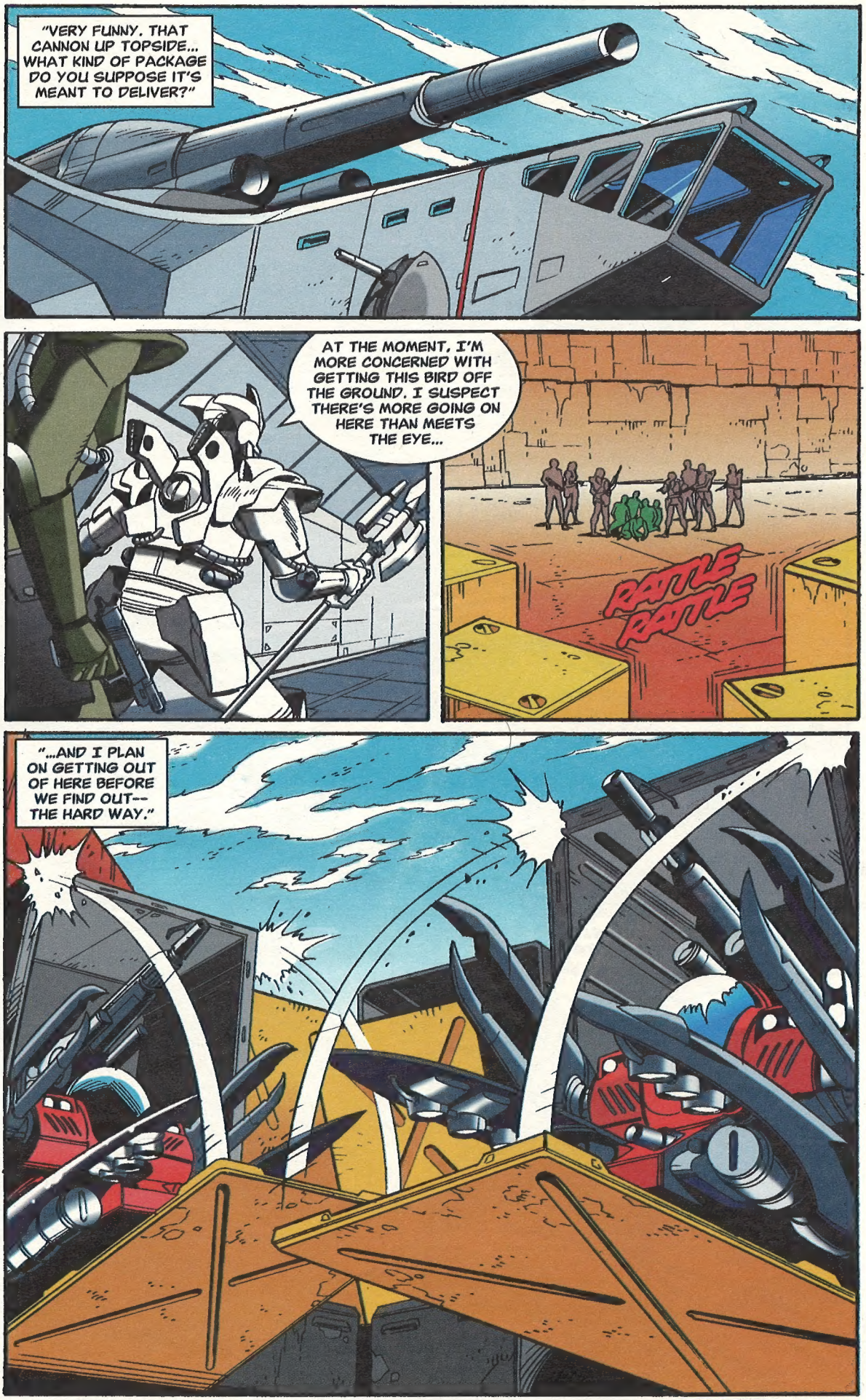

TAKE 'EM DOWN FAST! WE'RE FLYING THAT MONSTER OUT OF HERE!

DON'T SHOOT! PLEASE! WE SURRENDER!
IT'S NOT THAT EASY, PAL! I GIVE YOU TEN SECONDS TO LIVE! MAKE IT WORTH MY WHILE!
HIGH COMMAND DOESN'T TELL US ANYTHING! WE JUST MAINTAIN THE VEHICLE! WE'RE ALL NON-COM! WE'RE NOT EVEN ARMED!
HMM. SO I SEE.
PLATOON! KEEP THESE MEN UNDER GUARD. I'M GONNA BOARD THE PLANE AND VERIFY OUR FRIEND'S STORY. PREPARE TO MOVE ON MY SIGNAL!
COLONEL, I'M GOING WITH YOU. YOU'LL NEED MY PORTABLE COMPUTER.
WHATEVER. JUST DON'T SLOW ME DOWN, LIEUTENANT WONG...
GEIST! KEEP ME IN SIGHT AT ALL TIMES. I GET THE FEELING OUR DEAR COLONEL JUST MISSED SOMETHING.
ROGER.
I'VE NEVER SEEN A PLANE LIKE THIS ONE. INTEL SAID NEXRUM WASN'T SUPPOSED TO HAVE THE RESOURCES TO BUILD ANYTHING LIKE THIS.
DON'T FEEL BAD, WONG. I'VE COME TO EXPECT VERY LITTLE FROM YOU AND YOUR UPPER ECHELON.

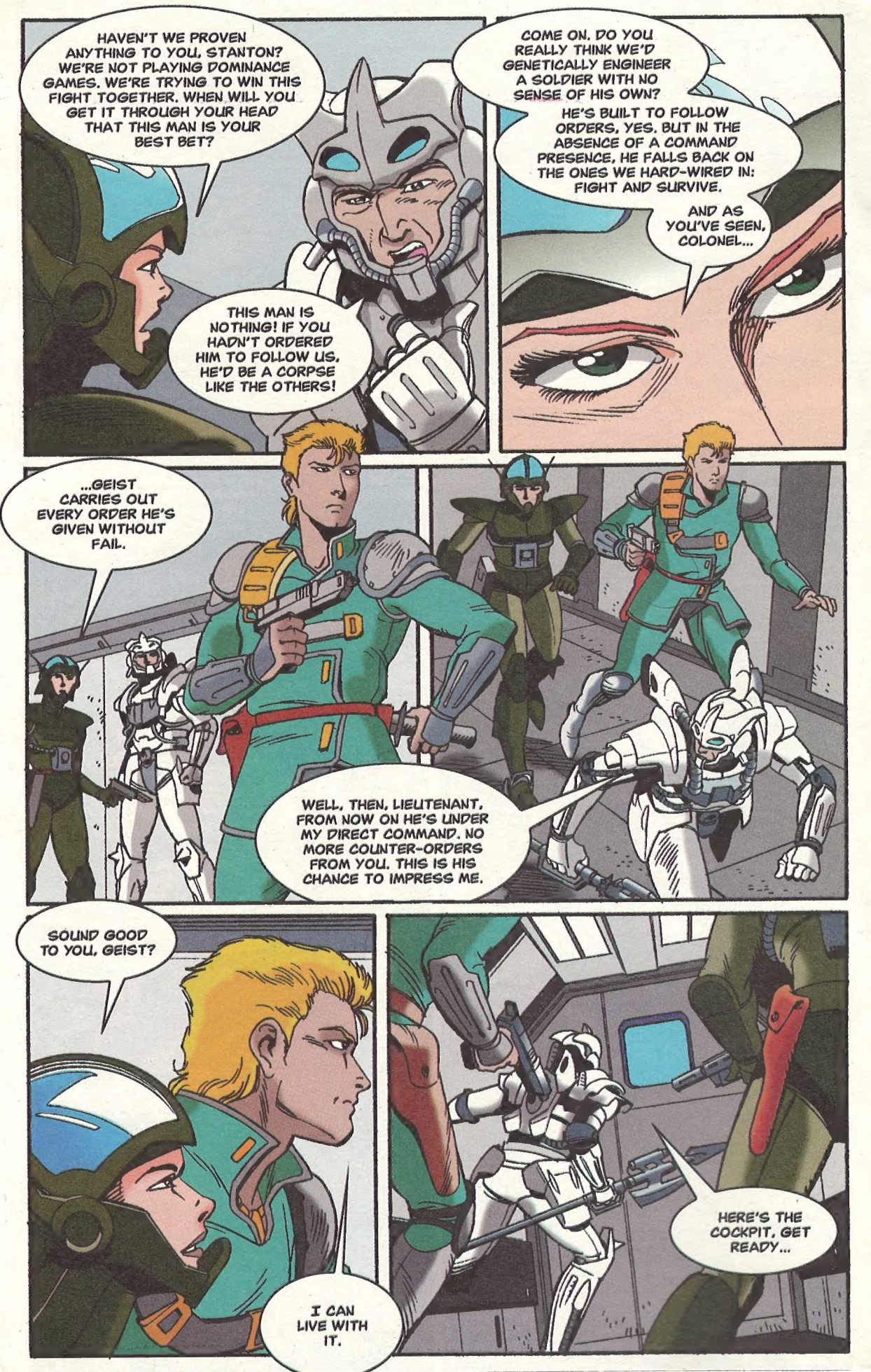

"VERY FUNNY. THAT CANNON UP TOPSIDE... WHAT KIND OF PACKAGE DO YOU SUPPOSE IT'S MEANT TO DELIVER?"
AT THE MOMENT, I'M MORE CONCERNED WITH GETTING THIS BIRD OFF THE GROUND. I SUSPECT THERE'S MORE GOING ON HERE THAN MEETS THE EYE...
RATTLE RATTLE
"...AND I PLAN ON GETTING OUT OF HERE BEFORE WE FIND OUT-- THE HARD WAY."

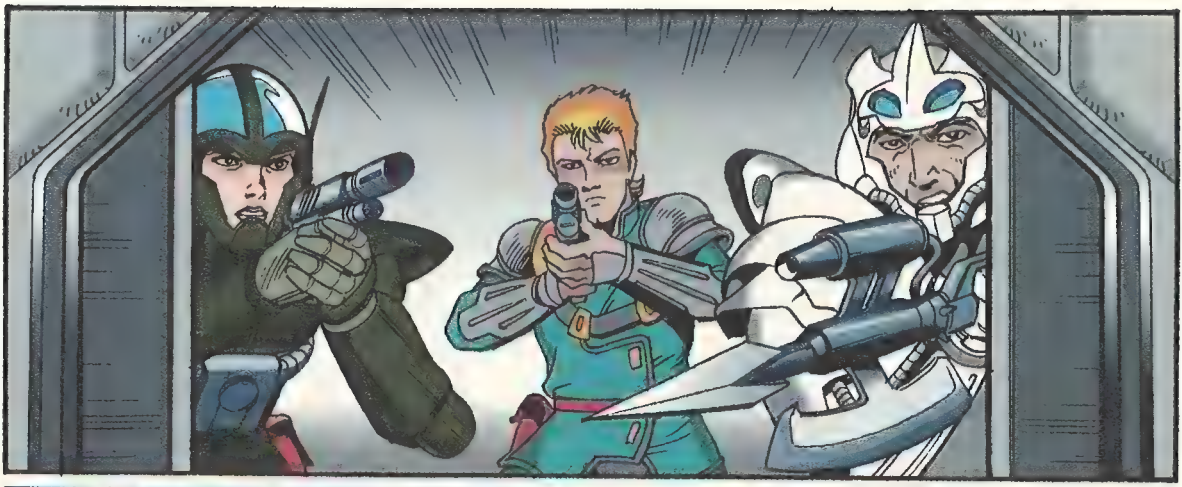
AAAGH!
ARGGGH!
COLONEL! IT'S A TRA
AAGGGH!
DAMN IT! DUPED LIKE AN AMATEUR!

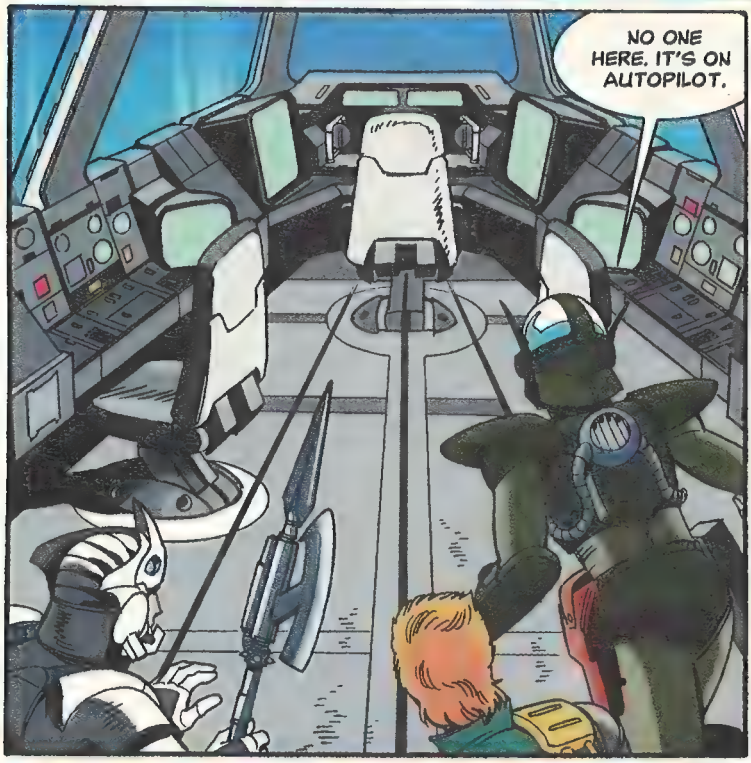
HOW COULD THEY HAVE KNOWN WE WERE COMING?
PROBABLY TIPPED OFF BY SOME DISTRESS BEACON YOUR PSYCHO-BOY SET OFF WHEN HE NAILED THAT POWERED SUIT BACK IN THE SWAMP!
I KNEW I NEVER SHOULD HAVE TRUSTED YOU!
WHAT? YOU WERE THE ONE THAT PUT HIM ON POINT POSITION, YOU PETTY SON OF A BI--
WATCH IT!
AW, CHRIST! THIS IS ALL WE NEED. GET BEHIND ME!
ALL RIGHT! I'LL COUNT THREE...
W-WAIT A MINUTE! WHAT'S--
RMBBMBMB

BLA
WHAT THE HELL--?
WE'RE AIRBORNE! C-CAN'T MOVE!
BLAM
BLAM
SHINK

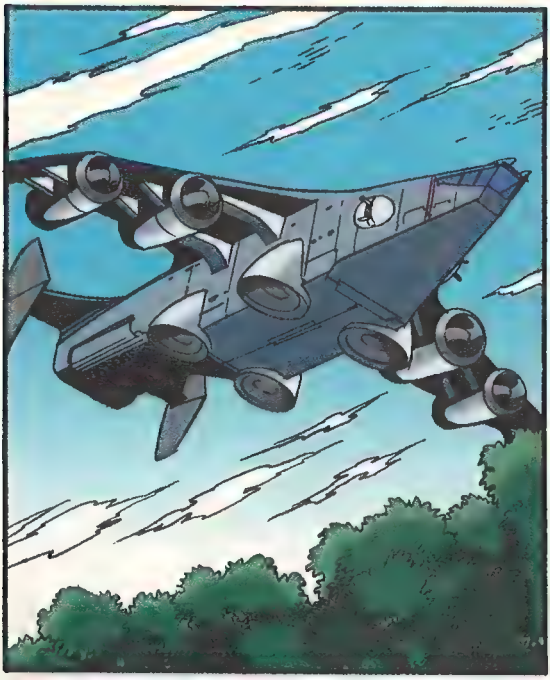
BOOM
GEIST! I KNEW YOU'D COME THROUGH!
THE OTHERS ARE DEAD. THERE WAS NO TIME.
LIAR! I DIDN'T ORDER YOU TO FOLLOW US IN HERE!
I KNEW YOU WOULDN'T, SO I DID.


HAVEN'T WE PROVEN ANYTHING TO YOU, STANTON? WE'RE NOT PLAYING DOMINANCE GAMES. WE'RE TRYING TO WIN THIS FIGHT TOGETHER. WHEN WILL YOU GET IT THROUGH YOUR HEAD THAT THIS MAN IS YOUR BEST BET?
THIS MAN IS NOTHING! IF YOU HADN'T ORDERED HIM TO FOLLOW US, HE'D BE A CORPSE LIKE THE OTHERS!
COME ON. DO YOU REALLY THINK WE'D GENETICALLY ENGINEER A SOLDIER WITH NO SENSE OF HIS OWN?
HE'S BUILT TO FOLLOW ORDERS, YES. BUT IN THE ABSENCE OF A COMMAND PRESENCE, HE FALLS BACK ON THE ONES WE HARD-WIRED IN: FIGHT AND SURVIVE.
AND AS YOU'VE SEEN, COLONEL...
...GEIST CARRIES OUT EVERY ORDER HE'S GIVEN WITHOUT FAIL.
WELL, THEN, LIEUTENANT, FROM NOW ON HE'S UNDER MY DIRECT COMMAND. NO MORE COUNTER-ORDERS FROM YOU. THIS IS HIS CHANCE TO IMPRESS ME.
SOUND GOOD TO YOU, GEIST?
I CAN LIVE WITH IT.
HERE'S THE COCKPIT, GET READY...

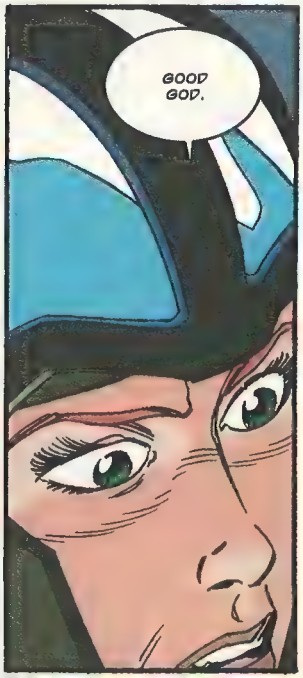



NO ONE HERE. IT'S ON AUTOPILOT.

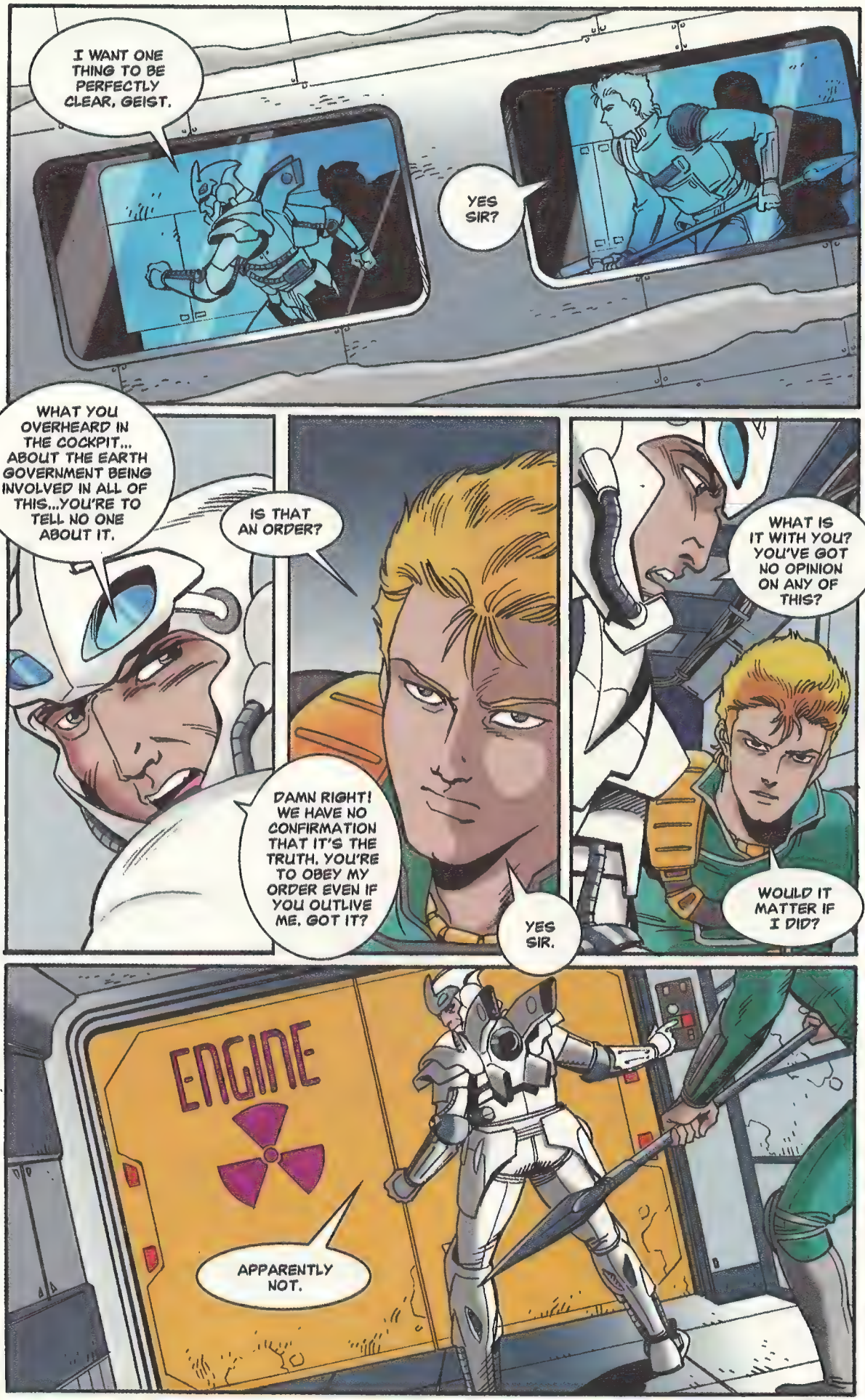
PATCH IN, WONG. SEE WHAT'S PROGRAMMED INTO THIS BEAST.
WAY AHEAD OF YOU.



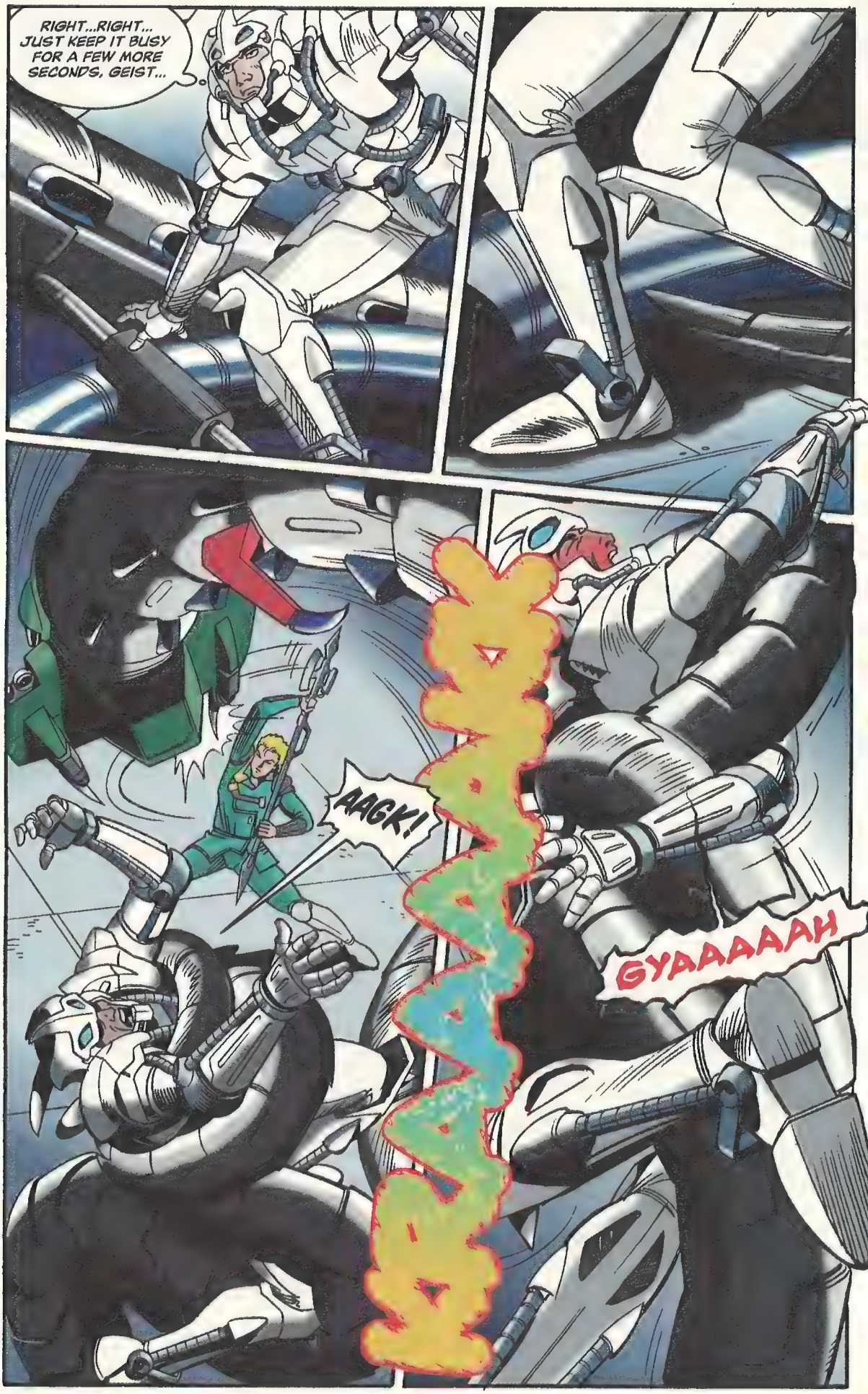
OKAY, I'M IN. GETTING A DOWNLOAD NOW...


GOOD GOD.

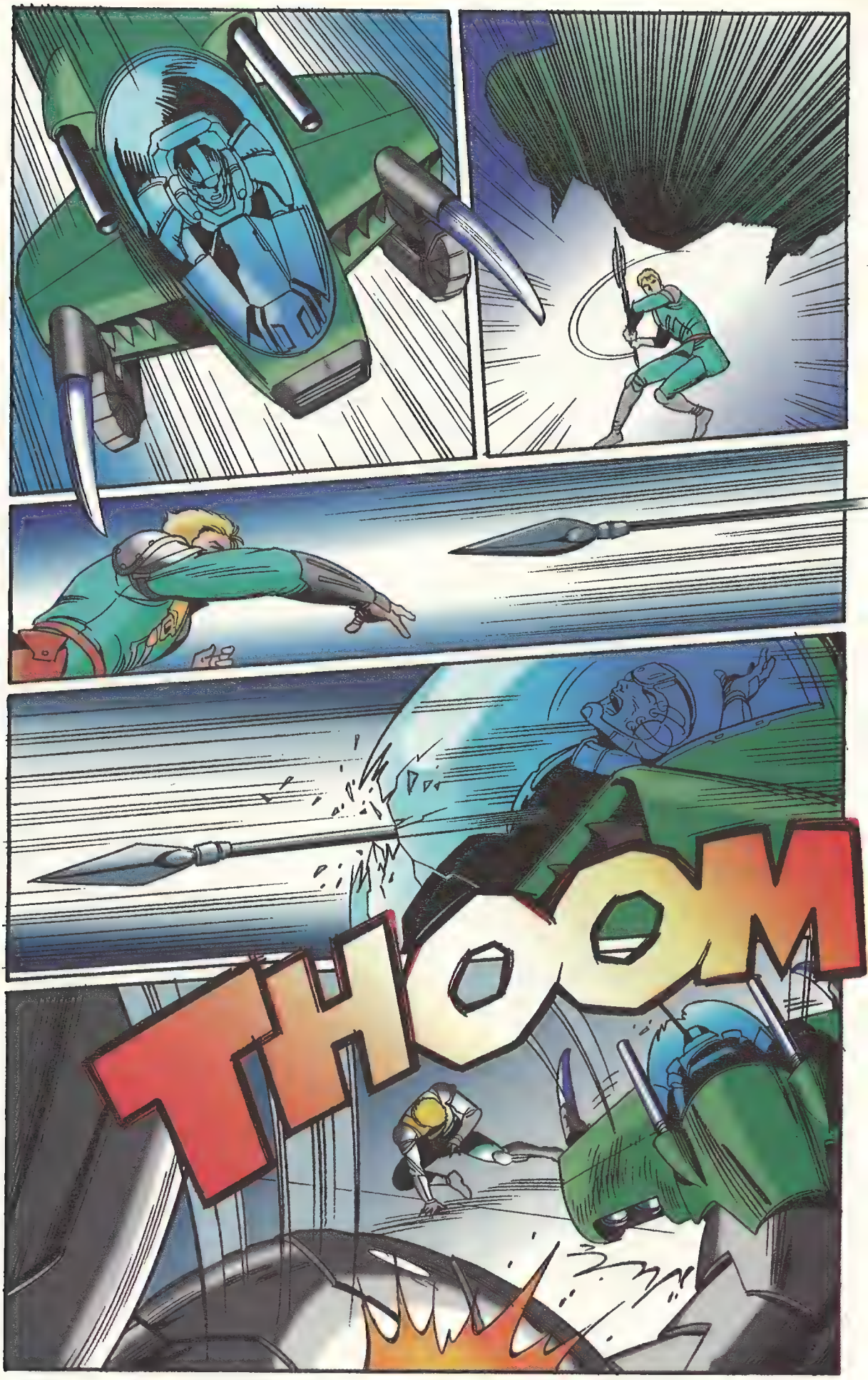
THIS CAN'T BE RIGHT. NEXRUM HAS THIS THING POINTED AT THEIR OWN CITY--AND IT'S LOADED WITH NUKES! THAT CANNON--IT'S BUILT TO FIRE NUCLEAR PROJECTILES!
THAT'S INSANE! WHAT'S THE SOURCE OF THE PROGRAM?
EARTH.
THE EARTH GOVERNMENT ORDERED THIS.
I DON'T BELIEVE IT! WHY WOULD THEY VIOLATE THE NUCLEAR SPACE TREATY? WHY SET OFF A CHAIN OF EVENTS THAT WILL DESTROY THIS ENTIRE PLANET?
HOW THE HELL SHOULD I KNOW, STANTON? THEY'RE MY BOSSES TOO! WHY WOULD THEY TELL ME ANYTHING?
THIS IS GREAT. THIS IS JUST OUTSTANDING.
ALL RIGHT. KEEP IT TOGETHER. CONTINUE THE DOWNLOAD. SEE IF THERE'S ANY WAY TO STOP THIS THING.
GEIST, YOU'RE WITH ME. IF SHE CAN'T REGAIN MANUAL CONTROL, WE TAKE OUT THE ENGINES.
SIR.
WHOAH! NO GUNS! THOSE NUKES MIGHT BE ON A HAIR-TRIGGER FOR ALL WE KNOW!
ANY GUNFIRE AND THE WHOLE THING MIGHT BLOW--!
HE'S GOT TO HAVE SOME WEAPON, COLONEL. YOU'VE GOT YOUR FIGHTEX ARMOR--WHY NOT GIVE HIM YOUR SPEAR?
BUT THAT THING'S MADE TO BE USED WITH POWERED ARMOR! HOW'S HE GONNA FIGHT WITH SOMETHING HE CAN'T EVEN--
--LIFT?
AFTER YOU, SIR.

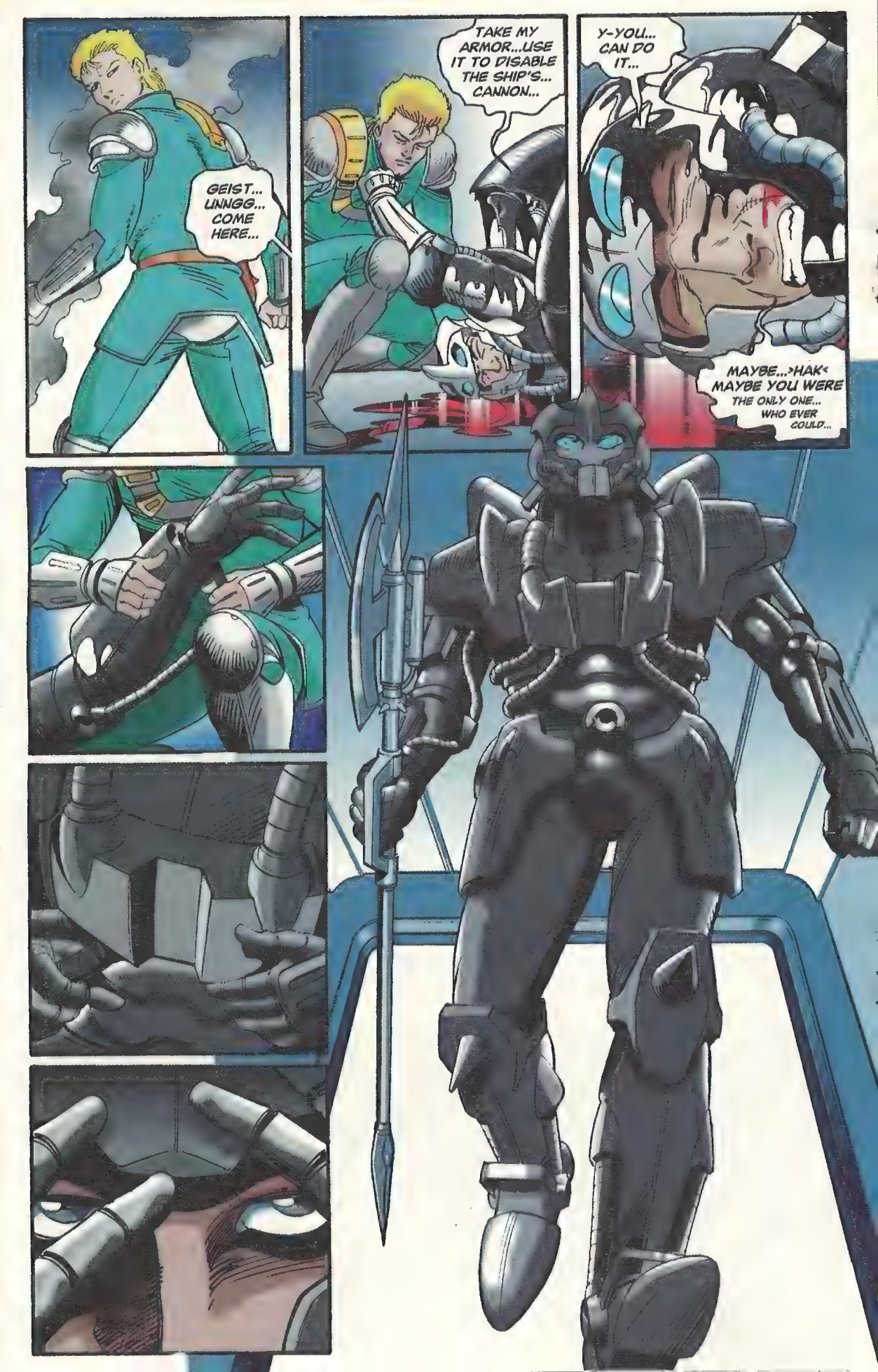

I WANT ONE THING TO BE PERFECTLY CLEAR, GEIST.
YES SIR?
WHAT YOU OVERHEARD IN THE COCKPIT... ABOUT THE EARTH GOVERNMENT BEING INVOLVED IN ALL OF THIS...YOU'RE TO TELL NO ONE ABOUT IT.
IS THAT AN ORDER?
DAMN RIGHT! WE HAVE NO CONFIRMATION THAT IT'S THE TRUTH. YOU'RE TO OBEY MY ORDER EVEN IF YOU OUTLIVE ME. GOT IT?
YES SIR.
WHAT IS IT WITH YOU? YOU'VE GOT NO OPINION ON ANY OF THIS?
WOULD IT MATTER IF I DID?
ENGINE
APPARENTLY NOT.

DAMN! LOOK OUT!
GO LEFT! DIVIDE ITS ATTENTION AND TAKE IT OUT!

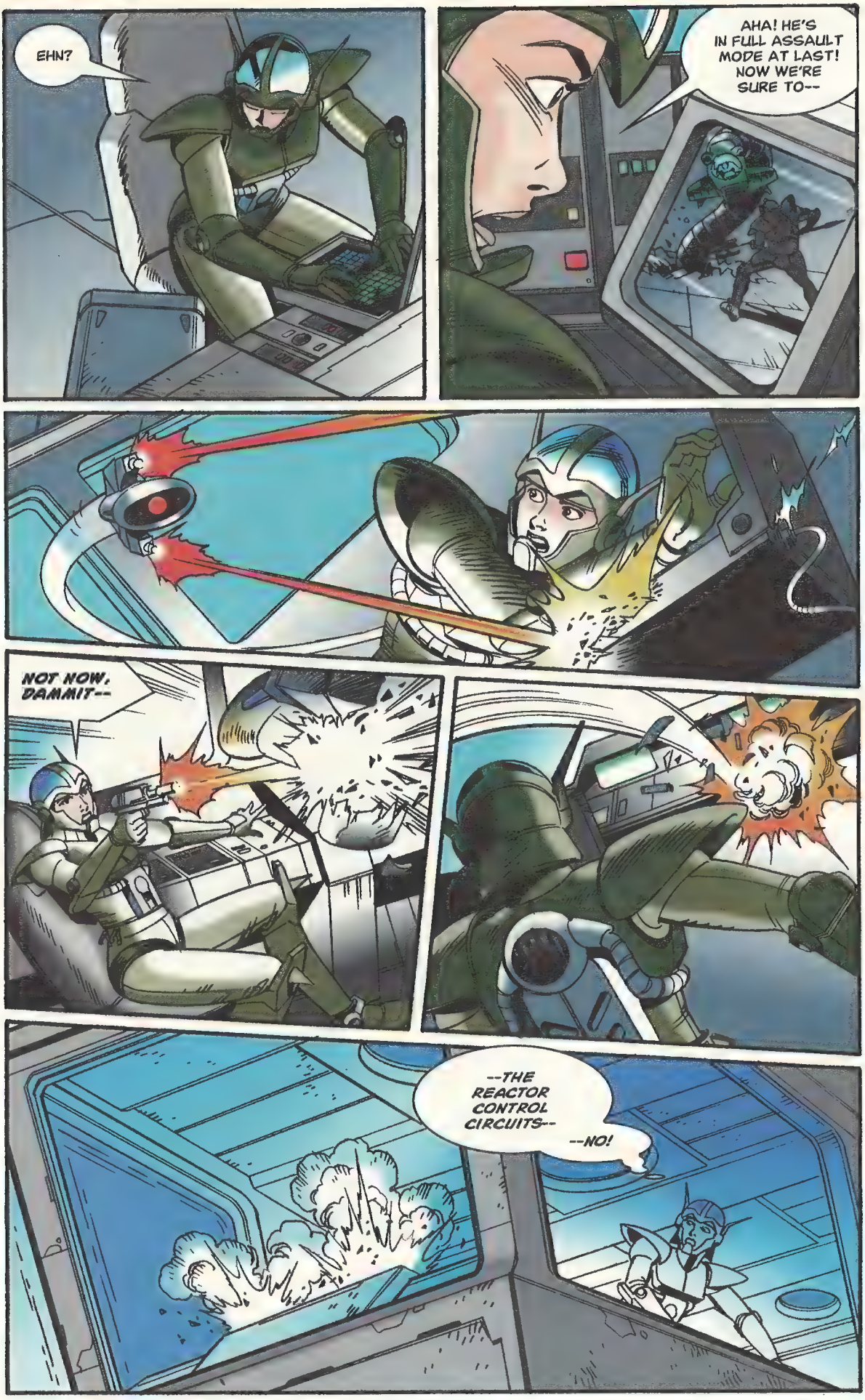

RIGHT...RIGHT... JUST KEEP IT BUSY FOR A FEW MORE SECONDS, GEIST...
AAGK!
GYAAAAAH

THAT WAS GOOD WORK... SOLDIER...
...NOW... FINISH IT...
...THAT'S... AN...ORDER...

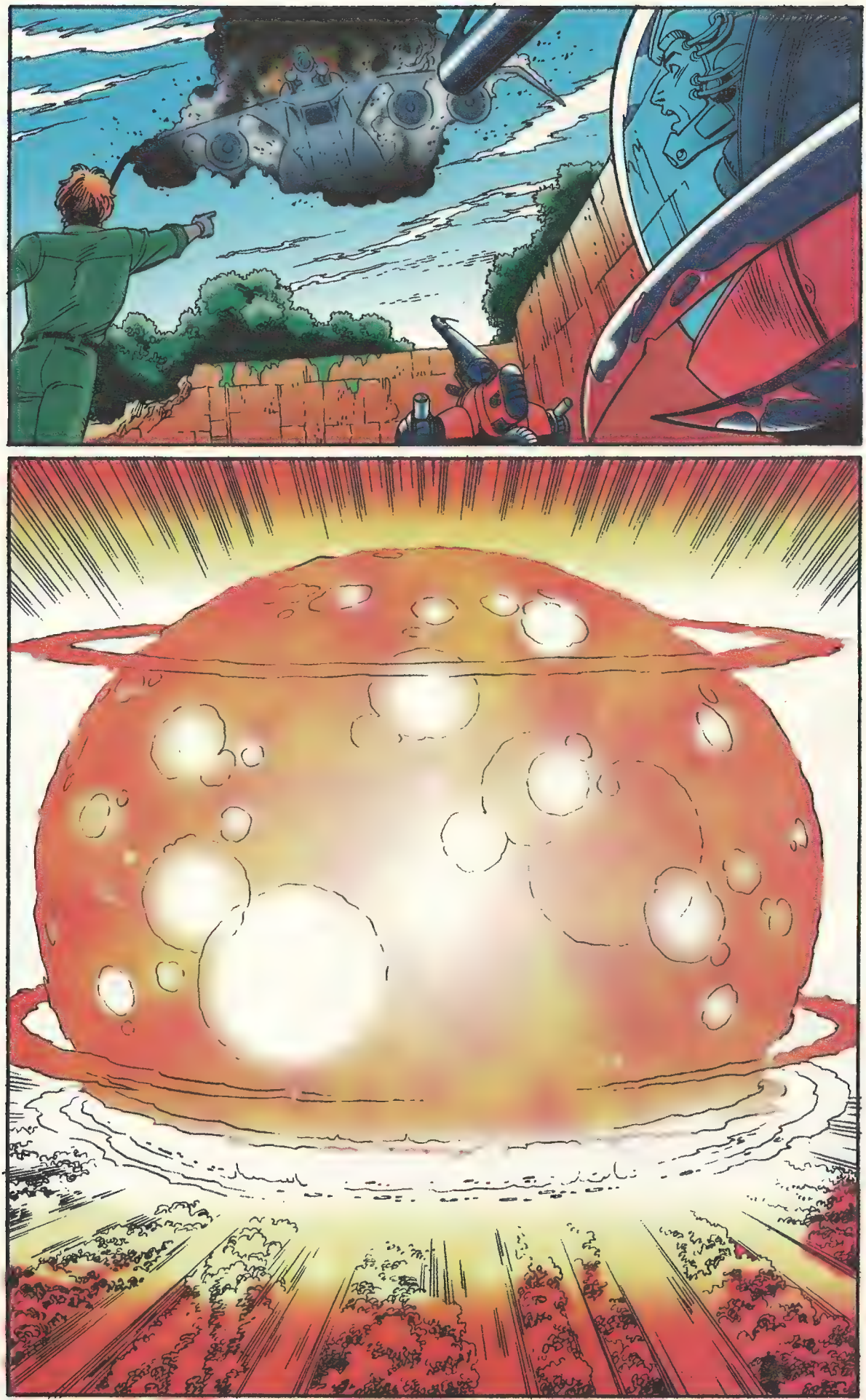

THOOM

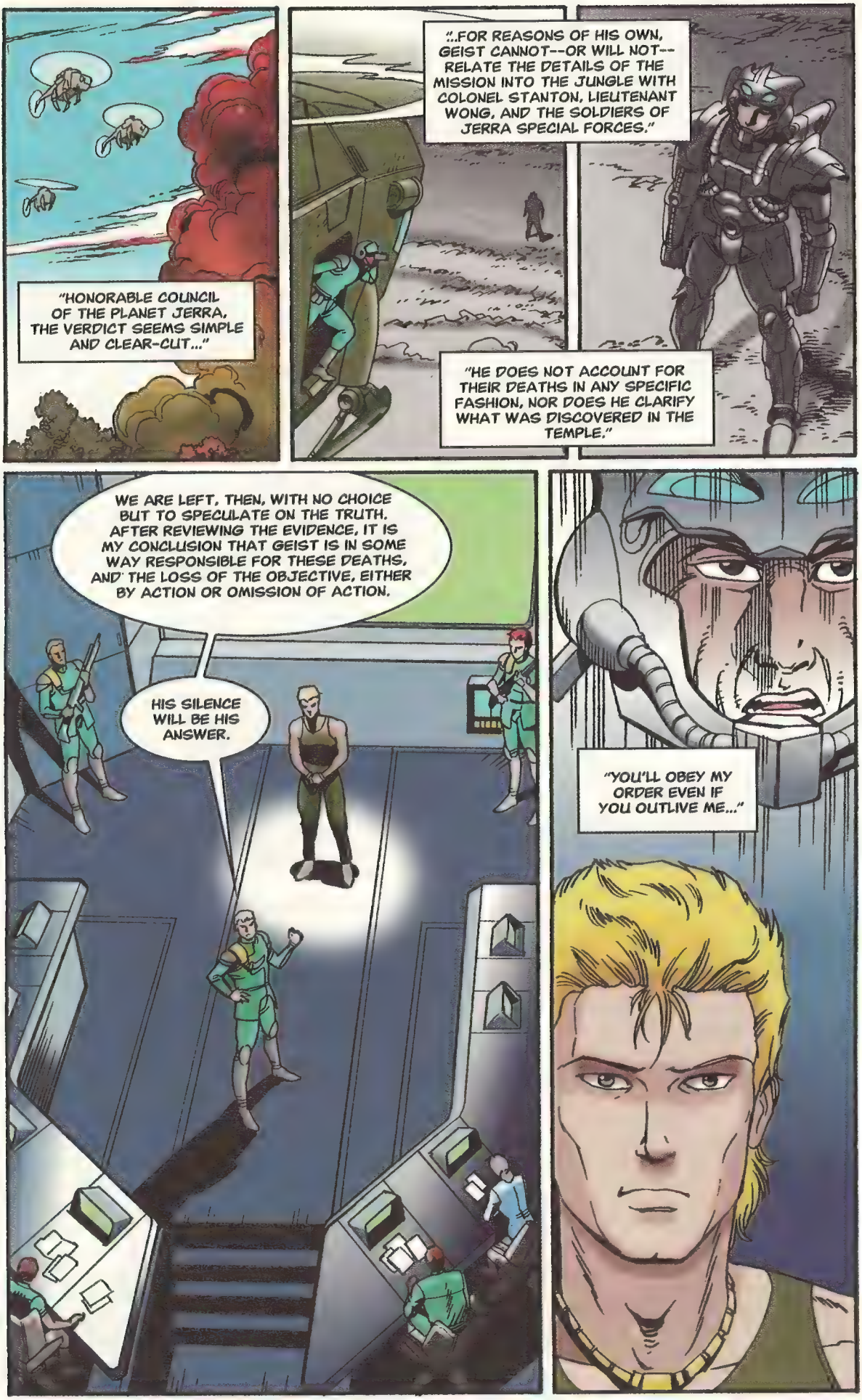

GEIST... UNNGG... COME HERE...
TAKE MY ARMOR...USE IT TO DISABLE THE SHIP'S... CANNON...
Y-YOU... CAN DO IT...
MAYBE...>HAK< MAYBE YOU WERE THE ONLY ONE... WHO EVER COULD...

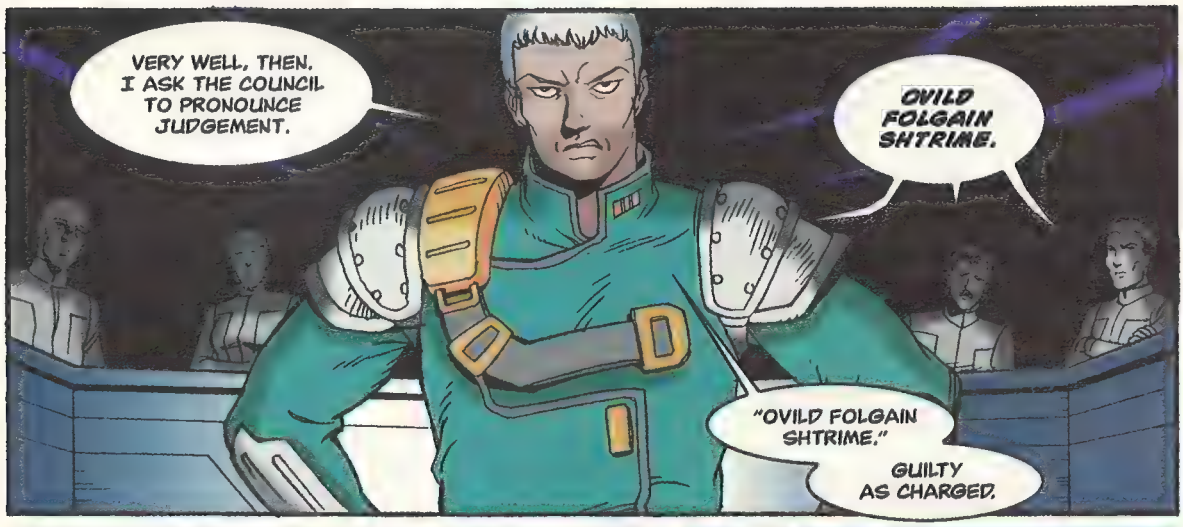
UHN!
CYBORG!
CONNECTIONS ARE STILL ACTIVE!


EHN?
AHA! HE'S IN FULL ASSAULT MODE AT LAST! NOW WE'RE SURE TO--
NOT NOW, DAMMIT--
--THE REACTOR CONTROL CIRCUITS--
--NO!

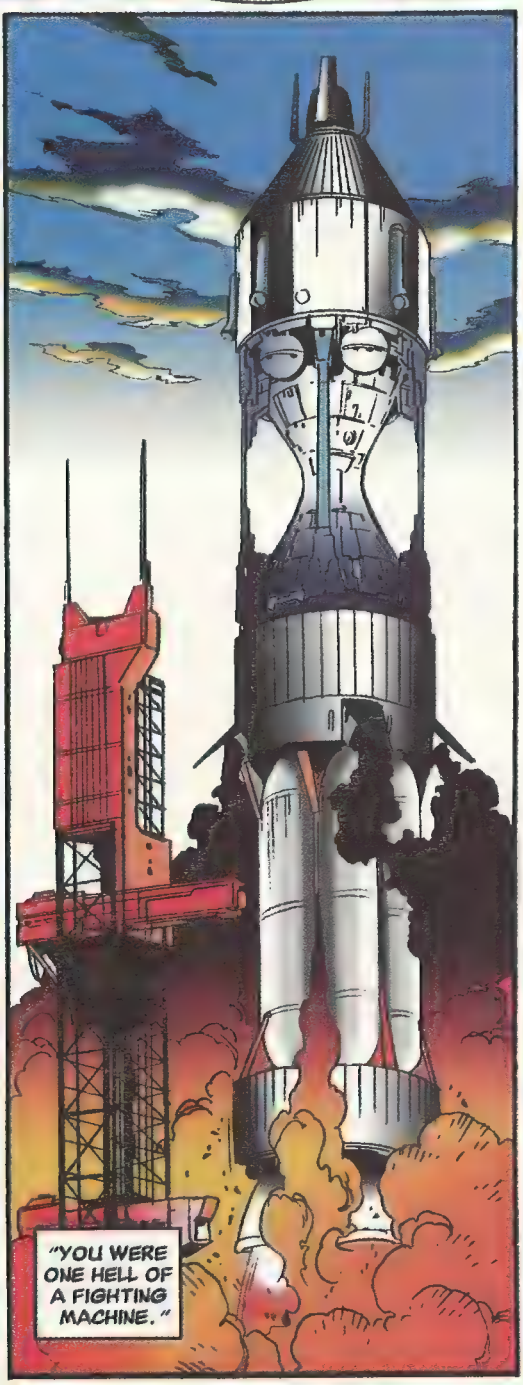
GEIST...
..YOU CAN'T HEAR ME...
...I CAN'T ORDER YOU TO SAVE ME...

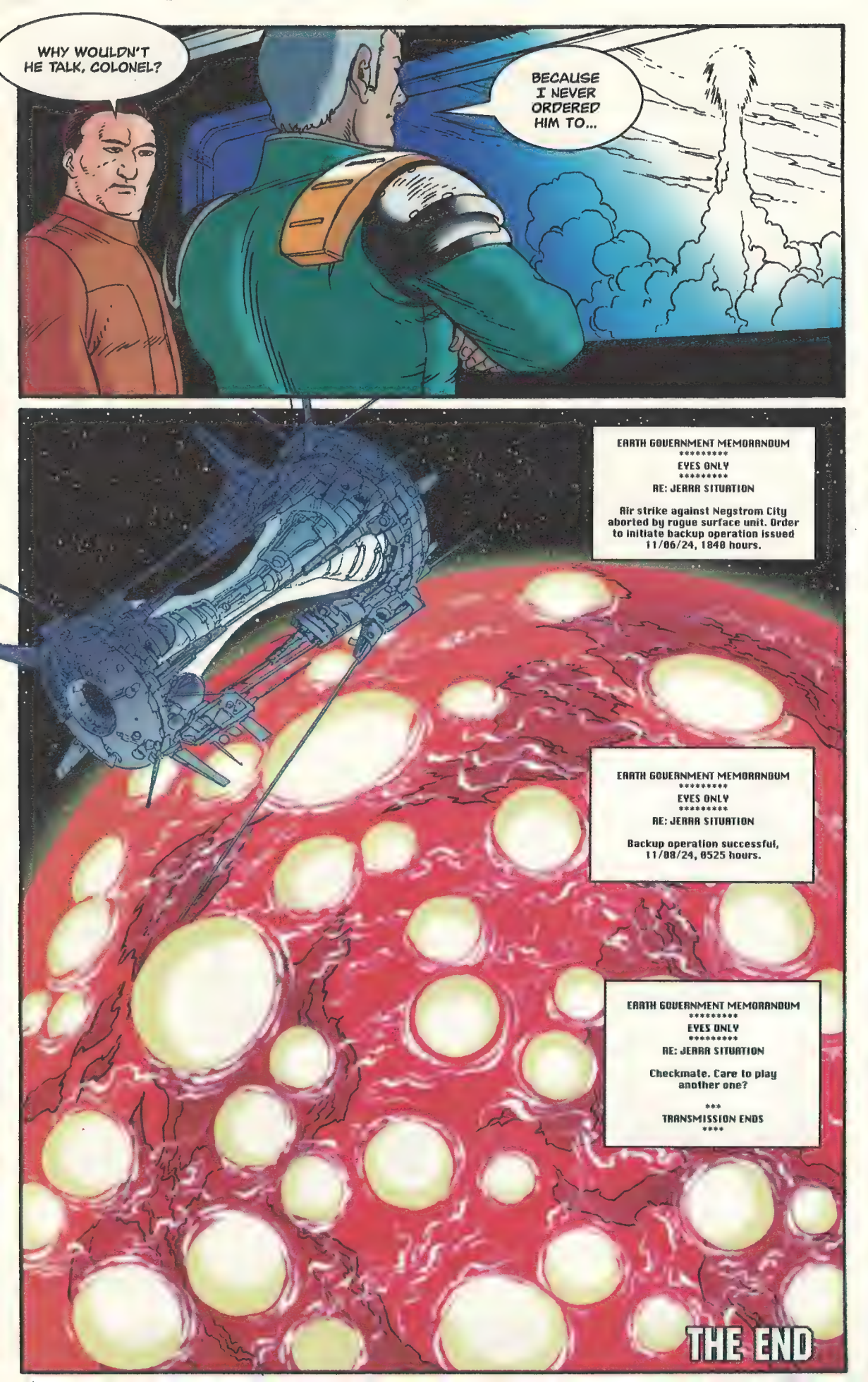



"HONORABLE COUNCIL OF THE PLANET JERRA, THE VERDICT SEEMS SIMPLE AND CLEAR-CUT..."
"...FOR REASONS OF HIS OWN, GEIST CANNOT--OR WILL NOT--RELATE THE DETAILS OF THE MISSION INTO THE JUNGLE WITH COLONEL STANTON, LIEUTENANT WONG, AND THE SOLDIERS OF JERRA SPECIAL FORCES."
"HE DOES NOT ACCOUNT FOR THEIR DEATHS IN ANY SPECIFIC FASHION, NOR DOES HE CLARIFY WHAT WAS DISCOVERED IN THE TEMPLE."
WE ARE LEFT, THEN, WITH NO CHOICE BUT TO SPECULATE ON THE TRUTH. AFTER REVIEWING THE EVIDENCE, IT IS MY CONCLUSION THAT GEIST IS IN SOME WAY RESPONSIBLE FOR THESE DEATHS, AND THE LOSS OF THE OBJECTIVE, EITHER BY ACTION OR OMISSION OF ACTION.
HIS SILENCE WILL BE HIS ANSWER.
"YOU'LL OBEY MY ORDER EVEN IF YOU OUTLIVE ME..."


VERY WELL, THEN. I ASK THE COUNCIL TO PRONOUNCE JUDGEMENT.
OVILD FOLGAIN SHTRIME.
"OVILD FOLGAIN SHTRIME."
GUILTY AS CHARGED.

"M.D. GEIST, FOR CRIMES AGAINST JERRA, YOU ARE TO BE TAKEN FROM THIS PLACE AND IMPRISONED FOR THE REST OF YOUR NATURAL LIFE..."
STANTON WAS MY COUSIN, GEIST. LEIGH WAS MY PROTEGE. FOR THEIR SAKES, I'D LIKE TO END YOUR LIFE. BUT PRESIDENT RYAN THINKS YOU'RE TOO VALUABLE TO JUST KILL...
ME--I THINK YOU'RE A DEMON. A BIOENGINEERED DEMON WHO WANTS NOTHING BUT TO FIGHT UNTIL THERE'S NO ONE LEFT TO KILL...
CRYO SOLUTION ACTIVE, COLONEL. PLEASE STEP BACK.
"THIS SATELLITE IS A FITTING COFFIN FOR YOU. A MECHANICAL TOMB FOR A MECHANICAL KILLER. GOODBYE, GEIST...


"YOU WERE ONE HELL OF A FIGHTING MACHINE."


WHY WOULDN'T HE TALK, COLONEL?
BECAUSE I NEVER ORDERED HIM TO...
EARTH GOVERNMENT MEMORANDUM
****
EYES ONLY
****
RE: JERRA SITUATION
Air strike against Negstrom City aborted by rogue surface unit. Order to initiate backup operation issued 11/06/24, 1848 hours.
EARTH GOVERNMENT MEMORANDUM
****
EYES ONLY
****
RE: JERRA SITUATION
Backup operation successful, 11/08/24, 0525 hours.
EARTH GOVERNMENT MEMORANDUM
****
EYES ONLY
****
RE: JERRA SITUATION
Checkmate. Care to play another one?
***
TRANSMISSION ENDS
****
THE END

24th MELKIAN ALLIED
COMMAND BASE
PLANET MELKIA
YEAR 7213.7
CHIRICO! THIS TORTURE IS A WASTE OF TIME FOR BOTH OF US!
TELL ME WHERE YOUR UNIT TOOK THE PROTOTYPE FROM LIDO, AND WE CAN END THIS!
UNG!
I TOLD YOU --
UNG!
I DON'T KNOW!

CAPTAIN ROCHINA... WHAT PROGRESS HAVE YOU MADE?
NONE, GENERAL. WE'VE BEEN AT IT FOR THREE HOURS, AND HE STILL HASN'T CRACKED.
MY NEWS IS SLIGHTLY BETTER. THE TREATY SIGNING IS UNDERWAY... BALARANT HIGH COMMAND HAS GIVEN NO INDICATION THAT THEY'RE AWARE OF THE INCIDENT AT LIDO.
NOT THAT THEY WOULD.
WE STILL CAN'T AFFORD TO TAKE ANY CHANCES.
DOCTOR, BOOST THE SHOCK LEVEL TO MAXIMUM.
NO! IT'LL KILL HIM!
DR. FUJISEN, THIS SITUATION IS CRITICAL!
DO IT!
Y-YES, SIR...
GYAAA

WHAT HAPPENED?
HE'S FLAT-LINED!
THEN RESUSCITATE HIM, YOU FOOL!
THERE'S NOTHING WE CAN DO, SIR.
HE JUST RECIEVED A LETHAL DOSE!
UH!
UNPF!
INCREDIBLE!
I DON'T BELIEVE IT!

GET IN THERE! GET HIM BACK UP ON THE TABLE IMMEDIATELY!
CAPTAIN, DESPITE WHAT WE JUST SAW, THIS CAN'T GO ON.
YOU CAN'T AFFORD TO LOSE HIM.
I'M USING MY MEDICAL PREROGATIVE TO STOP THIS FOR THE DAY.
SIGHHH. VERY WELL. ANOTHER NIGHT IN THE COLD CELL WILL WEAR HIM DOWN.
THEN I'LL FIND OUT EXACTLY WHAT HE'S HIDING.
SO WHAT'D YOU BET?
I THOUGHT HE'D BREAK BY THE END OF THE FIRST DAY.
HEH. NOW IT'S DAY THREE. HE'S A TOUGH ONE, ALL RIGHT. COST ME A ROUND AT THE BAR LAST NIGHT.
COST ME AN HOUR IN THE BROTHEL.
I TELL YA, I WON'T MIND SEEIN' ROCHINA TURN THIS BASTARD'S BRAIN TO MUSH.

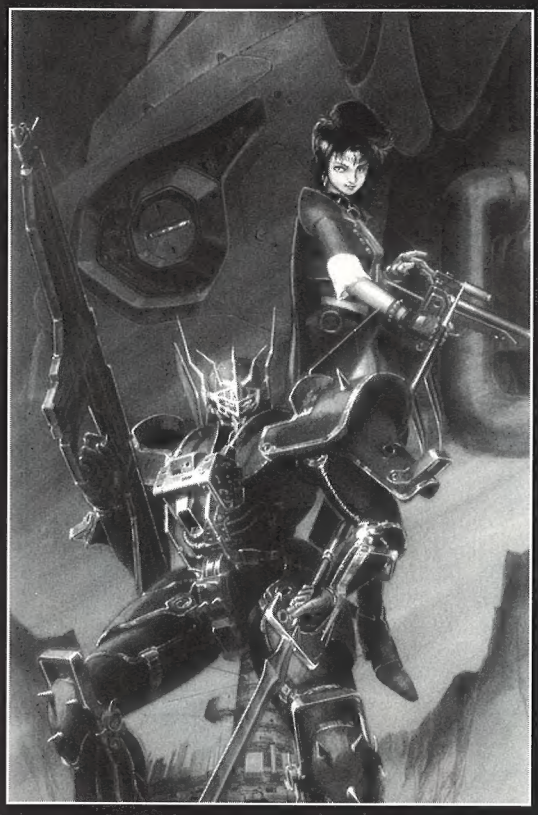
SAY WHAT YOU WANT ABOUT THE CAPTAIN...
...HE ALWAYS WINS IN THE END.
KLUNG
BREEEEEEEEEEEEEEEEEE
EH?
DOOR DIDN'T CLOSE.
HEY...
WHERE--
HUH?!
LING!

DROP IT! NOW!
BRATATATATAT
HEY!
STOP WHERE YOU ARE!
LET 'IM HAVE IT!
BRAKKABRAKKA

IT'S POSSIBLE HIS STORY MAY BE TRUE, JEAN-PAUL.
OUR GAMES ARE FILLED WITH PAWNS.
I'M NOT QUITE CONVINCED OF THAT, SIR. HE--
CAPTAIN!
YOUR PRISONER -- HE ESCAPED!
WHAT?
WHO'S RESPONSIBLE?!
I AM SIR. HE TRICKED US SOMEHO--
IDIOT!
DO YOU REALIZE WHAT YOU'VE DONE?!
GET EVERYONE ON THIS! I WANT THE ENTIRE BASE LOCKED DOWN! MOVE IT!

"HE'S AWAY! HE GOT ONE OF THE JETS!"
DAMN HIM... HE KNOWS...
SIR, SHOULD I DISPATCH A CHASER PLATOON?
CAPTAIN?!
THERE'S NO NEED TO PANIC.
I HAD DR. FULISEN IMPLANT A TRANSPONDER INTO HIS BODY.
"IF WE PUT OUR TRACKING NETWORK TO USE...
"... HE MAY LEAD US STRAIGHT TO THE PRIZE."
That day, the truce was signed and the accursed war that had so disrupted my destiny was over.
But it didn't matter... because the moment I saw HER, my own private war began.
...A war for which there would be no end.

NEXT MONTH



M.D. GEIST: DATA ALBUM 1

Reprinting the first three issues of the gritty, apocalyptic future war saga created by noted Japanese director/designer **Koichi** (*Genocyber*) **Ohata,** M.D. GEIST: DATA ALBUM 1 presents 72 full-color pages of hard-slamming action and adventure drawn by Tim Eldred, plus an all-new data digest featuring the weapons, warriors, and the whole teeth-clenching world of Geist in loving detail. Plus pictures of U.S. Manga Corps' GEIST REITER, the never-seen-before, have-to-be-seen-to-be-believed custom Harley-Davidson motorcycle—all in one convenient package! Produced by Studio Go!

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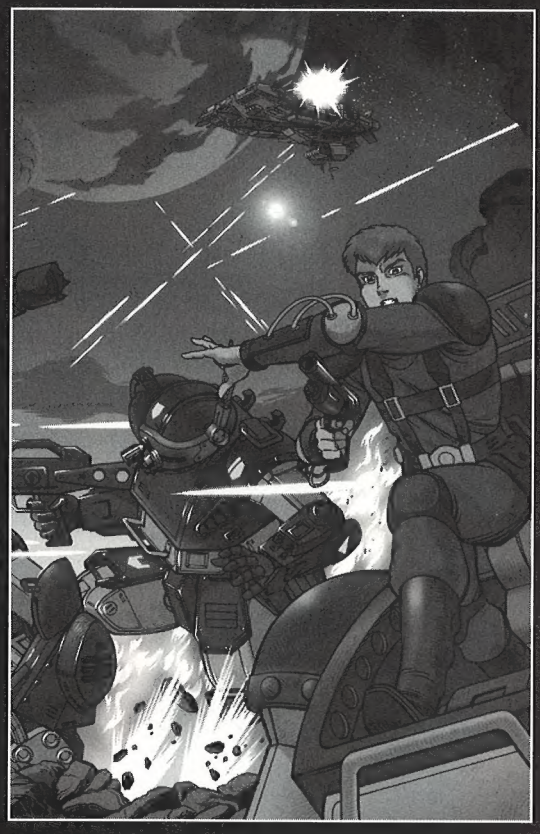
By Tim Eldred and Studio Go!



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